GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2890
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
REPLACEMENT OF SHIPS AND AIRCRAFTS
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 34 ships and six aircrafts with Coast Guard are old and need replacement;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering replacing these ships and aircrafts to augment the fleet;

(c) if so, the time by which these ships/aircrafts would be replaced;

(d) whether the Coast Guard has asked for 30 percent increase in personnel over the next five years on the ground that after the demarcation of the outer shelf, the EEZ will expand to 2.90 million square kilometres; and

(e) if so, the likely time by which their needs would be met?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) There are 12 ships, 08 speedboats and 03 helicopters with Coast Guard due for decommissioning by 2002.

(b) to (e): Replacement of the fleet and augmentation of manpower is a continuous process undertaken, keeping in view the role envisaged for the Coast Guard and the resources available. Accordingly, the Government have reviewed the existing manpower and equipment available with the Coast Guard to effectively meet the needs of its maritime operations and new challenges. Appropriate manpower and equipment will be made available to the Coast Guard to meet its operational commitments.